UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/196
5 March 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 4 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZIMBABWE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, I have the honour to request that the attached letter regarding the concern of OAU at the continuing dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland over the Lockerbie issue, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Machivenyika T. MAPURANGA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe
to the United Nations
Representative of the OAU Current
Chairman

98-05476 (E) 050398

/...

Annex

Letter dated 4 March 1998 from the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity addressed to the Secretary-General

I am addressing this letter to you in order to bring, once again, to your attention, the concern of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at the continuing dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland over the Lockerbie issue.

As you are aware, OAU, together with the League of Arab States and other organizations, has been deploying efforts aimed at promoting a lasting and peaceful solution to the crisis. In that regard, OAU has been consistently calling for the lifting of the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by the Security Council. It has also called on the Security Council to consider the three options submitted to it jointly by OAU and the League of Arab States, namely:

(a) Option 1. Hold the trial of the suspects in a third and neutral country to be determined by the Security Council;

(b) Option 2. Have the suspects tried by Scottish judges at the International Court of Justice at The Hague, in accordance with Scottish law;

(c) Option 3. Establish a special criminal tribunal at ICJ headquarters at The Hague to try the suspects.

The dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the United States and the United Kingdom was again discussed at the sixty-seventh ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of OAU, held at Addis Ababa, from 25 to 28 February 1998. The Council of Ministers reiterated its position on the matter and strongly supported the call by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the convening of an open session of the Security Council under Article 31 of the Charter of the United Nations that would take place in March 1998. The Council of Ministers further requested me to write and convey to you the concerns of our organization and its keen interest in an early and peaceful solution to the crisis.

I should be grateful if you could kindly have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Salim Ahmed SALIM